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Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Human rights

Information received from Governments

Russian Federation**

Information from the Russian Federation on nationwide measures to implement the Forum's recommendations in connection with the request from the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Points 1-4 of the questionnaire:

Issues relating to the protection of the rights and interests of indigenous peoples are given priority by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The category of indigenous minorities in the Russian Federation includes 46 ethnic groups totalling about 280,000 persons. In 2008, the Unified List of indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation was expanded to include one of the country's most ancient ethnic groups, the Vod. There are concentrations of indigenous minorities in more than 30 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Because these minorities are vulnerable, systematic Government action to preserve their traditional way of life and culture is a matter of pressing concern.

1. Current changes in climate, particularly the global warming of recent decades, is having a significant effect on overall socio-economic conditions in the Arctic. The indigenous peoples of the North, whose traditional activities are directly linked to the Arctic environment and its wilderness, are in an area of particular risk.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

** Submission of the present report was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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During International Polar Year, 2007-2008, Russia implemented a variety of scientific research projects, including some having to do with the impact of climate change on the indigenous peoples of the North.

In May 2008, in Murmansk, an international conference, "Adapting to Climate Change and its Role in Ensuring Sustainable Development of Regions", was organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the Russian Regional Environmental Centre with support from the Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, the Murmansk regional government and the Institute of Industrial Ecology of the North Kolsk Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring presented research results on the impact of climate change on key sectors of the economy of the Arctic region such as marine transport, coastal development, the fuel and energy sector, agriculture, water management, the recreational potential of the region, public health and the way of life of the indigenous peoples of the North. The concluding statement noted that the sustainable development of regions experiencing climate change depended heavily on timely adaptation measures. Adaptation should become an integral element of regional socio-economic development strategies and development strategies for particular sectors of the economy.

December 2008 saw the release of the "Assessment Report on Climate Change and its Consequences in the Russian Federation", prepared by the Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring in collaboration with the Russian Academy of Sciences. The report contains up-to-date assessments of ongoing and expected changes in climate and of the impact of these changes on various socio-economic aspects of human activity, including in the Russian polar regions which are home to the indigenous minorities of the North. The report also proposes ways to adapt to climate change. During 2009, a summary of the assessment report will be sent to the governments of all the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, including those in the polar regions, for information purposes and for possible use in the development of regional climate change adaptation strategies.

One rich and diverse area of the scientific programme for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 is the section entitled "Quality of Life and Socio-economic Development in the Polar Regions". The primary purpose of this research is to lay the groundwork for developing a rational natural resources use policy for the Arctic and reconciling the interests of the indigenous population with the industrial opening-up of the region. Improving the quality of life of the indigenous population living in remote and isolated areas of the Far North and comparable regions through the provision of quality medical services and reducing the risk that environmental damage will affect human health will be important goals of this approach. The International Polar Year scientific programme can be viewed at http://www.ipyrus.aari.ru/ and the scientific programme events schedule can be found at http://www.ipyrus.aari.ru/realization_plan_2007_final.pdf. As part of the International Polar Year activities for 2007-2009, the Russian Federation is participating in 17 social science research expeditions in the Arctic, including some designed to gain new knowledge on the impact of climate change and man-made and natural environmental pollution on the life, activities and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

The Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring is making efforts to develop and improve hydrometerological and climactic observations in the Far North, including isolated areas, in order to obtain objective data on ongoing climate change. As part of a project to modernize and update equipment in Federal Service establishments and institutions (2008-2010, carried out in cooperation with the World Bank) some 30 isolated polar stations will be equipped with autonomous automatic metereological observation stations and updated sets of data collection and communications equipment.

Each year the Federal Service publishes on its website a report on specific aspects of climate in the Russian Federation, which, in addition to information on specific aspects of temperature and precipitation, contains data about the ice conditions in the Arctic, the snow cover and dangerous weather phenomena. This contributes to the broad dissemination of information about ongoing climate change in the Arctic, which is home to the indigenous minorities of the North.

2. The Convention on Biological Diversity also examines issues connected with indigenous people. Article 8 (j) of the Convention stipulates that each Contracting Party shall, subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices. An Ad Hoc Working Group on the implementation of article 8 (j) has been established and suitable provisions are being considered as a cross-cutting issue in the Convention's thematic programmes of work.

Decision VII/30 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention provides for the establishment of a temporary system of objectives and targets to promote coherence among the various programmes of work of the Convention. In 2007, Russia prepared and submitted to the secretariat of the Convention its third national report on implementation of the Convention which, along with other information, contains details of measures to achieve objective 9 of the above decision of the Conference of Parties: preserving sociocultural diversity of indigenous and local communities, as well as on action to implement article 8 (j) of the Convention.

3. In accordance with Federal Act No. 49 of 7 May 2001 on the territories of traditional natural resource use for the indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, such territories are one type of specially protected natural territory (article 5) set up for the purpose of traditional natural resource use and the traditional way of life for the above peoples and their ethnic communities only. Securing for the indigenous minorities of the North the lands where they have traditionally lived, made their livelihoods and made use of natural resources is a key aspect of State regulation of the economic and cultural development of the indigenous minorities of the North.

The legal framework for these territories includes the determination of boundaries based on indigenous minorities' traditional use of natural resources as well as procedures for the exploitation and preservation of land in compliance with the aforementioned Federal Act No. 49 (article 11) and the Land Code of the Russian Federation (articles 94, 95), and is established by adoption of appropriate

provisions by an executive authority of the Russian Federation, by an executive authority of one of its constituent entities or by an agency of local government, under a delegation of powers by the Government of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with article 2.1 of Federal Act 2395-1 of 21 February 1992 on mineral resources, mineral deposits enclosed in the Earth's crust below the soil, including those underground, and the extractable energy and other resources contained in those deposits, are State property. Matters connected with geological prospecting, exploitation and conservation of mineral resources in the Russian Federation or on its continental shelf are governed by the same Act.

In accordance with article 8 of the Act on mineral resources, any exploitation of such resources, including geological prospecting, exploitation and extraction, in specially protected territories is determined by the status of those territories and is governed by Federal Act No. 33 of 14 March 1995 on natural territories under special protection.

In accordance with article 14 of Federal Act No. 49 on the territories of traditional natural resource use for the indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, indigenous minorities and their communities are entitled to exploit, at no cost and for their personal needs, commonly found minerals located in the territories of traditional natural resource use.

4. In accordance with existing legislation, a number of social welfare measures, particularly medical care, are provided to the Russian Federation's indigenous minorities. For example, in accordance with article 8, paragraph 9, of Federal Act No. 82 of 30 April 1999 on guarantees of the rights of the indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation, all such minorities receive free medical care, including a compulsory annual check-up at State and municipal health-care facilities under the programme of State guarantees concerning the provision of free medical care to citizens of the Russian Federation.

The focus of State policy for the North is to improve the demographic situation and to reduce mortality, particularly among children and those of working age, by establishing a system of medical services able to care for all population groups by means of preclinical diagnosis and methods of treating and preventing disease.

Reaching this objective involves the following:

Taking action to improve the environmental situation in areas where the indigenous minorities of the North have traditionally lived and made their livelihoods;

Implementing programmes to improve the health of the indigenous minorities of the North;

Taking action to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve the reproductive health of the indigenous minorities of the North;

Conducting regular screening aimed at early detection of medical conditions and socially significant diseases among the indigenous minorities of the North;

Providing better resources and equipment for ambulatory health care and in-patient and maternity services in places where indigenous peoples traditionally reside and make their livelihoods;

Developing mobile health-care facilities and increasing access to emergency medical care in places where indigenous peoples traditionally reside and make their livelihoods;

Establishing a network of telephone helpline centres attached to district and regional hospitals and a network of similar remote sites to provide basic information on patients' condition;

Taking action to reduce alcohol consumption and regulate alcohol sales and demand in places where indigenous peoples traditionally reside and make their livelihoods;

Implementing preventive programmes in educational institutions designed to prevent alcohol consumption and use of tobacco products by children and teenagers;

Supporting and developing physical exercise and sports for the indigenous minorities of the North;

Developing health and epidemiological indicators for the indigenous minorities of the North in places where they traditionally reside and make their livelihoods; comparing those indicators to the Russian average.

The priority national health-care project entitled "Health" provides significant support to residents of the northern regions of the country and to the indigenous ethnic groups with regard to the quality and accessibility of medical care.

The project aims to establish a basis for better and more effective primary care, taking into account the existing social infrastructure in the regions, settlement patterns and other characteristics.

In this connection, the Ministry of Health and Social Development issued Instruction No. 584 of 4 August 2006 on district-based arrangements for the organization of medical services to the population. This Instruction covers the Far North and comparable localities, mountainous, desert and arid districts and others with extreme climatic conditions and long periods of seasonal isolation, as well as sparsely populated localities.

In order to ensure a supply of medical workers in remote regions, such as those which predominate in the North, inhabitants of those areas are being trained as doctors and auxiliary medical personnel.

5. The prevalence of violence against women is a consequence of the low standard of living, unemployment and the prevalence of anti-social phenomena such as drunkenness and alcoholism.

The system of social rehabilitation of victims of family violence is important in preventing such violence. Lead roles in this system are played by social welfare agencies and institutions of various kinds that provide practical, medical, psychological, educational and legal services that are important for families, children and women, offering assistance in difficult circumstances and helping to solve family and psychological problems. These institutions operate in all the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The most highly developed are the local family and child social welfare centres, which provide various social services.

State financial assistance to families with children is a means of overcoming poverty and enabling women to combine their professional and family roles.

During 2006 and 2007, important legislation was adopted to improve financial support to citizens with children, and there was a consequent increase in allowances for mothers and children.

In accordance with Federal Act No. 207 of 5 December 2006 on the introduction of amendments to certain legislative instruments of the Russian Federation concerning State benefits for citizens with children, social benefits for families in connection with the birth and upbringing of a child were significantly increased. Since 1 January 2007, working mothers have received a monthly childcare allowance equivalent to 40 per cent of their wages. Those caring for two or more children under the age of 18 months receive multiples of that allowance, but the cumulative allowance may neither exceed 100 per cent of wages but may not be less than the cumulative minimum.

The allowance is paid to the mother, father, other relative or guardian actually caring for the child who is on childcare leave and is subject to compulsory social insurance.

Entitlement to this allowance has been acquired by unemployed citizens who are actually caring for a child under the age of 18 months and are not subject to compulsory social insurance. Allowances of all types are paid to women regardless of their ethnicity.

Another factor expanding women's opportunities in the sphere of work and employment is the existence of a network of accessible and high-quality preschool institutions.

In order to broaden the coverage and accessibility of preschool institutions, a ceiling on the amount that parents pay for a child's place at such an institution has been re-established. For example, the parental payment may not exceed 20 per cent of the cost of the place or 10 per cent for parents with three or more children who are minors.

Since 2007, part of the amount actually paid by parents for a child's place at a preschool institution has been reimbursed: 20 per cent for the first child, 50 per cent for the second child and 70 per cent for the third child and subsequent children.

The programmes being adopted in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to boost employment, reduce unemployment and develop small and family enterprises are an important step towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnicity. They focus particularly on measures to promote the employment of vulnerable categories of indigenous women.

The employment programmes cover assistance in finding suitable work and job placement by employment agencies, including free vocational guidance and psychological support, vocational training, retraining and refresher courses, and promotion of self-employment and small-scale entrepreneurship.

The employment promotion programmes also include support for traditional handicrafts, the development of work schedules suitable for women (shorter working day) and work from home.

6. The right of indigenous minorities in the Russian Federation to preserve and develop their native language, traditions and culture is set out in the Federal Acts on the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and on ethno-cultural autonomy. In particular, the Federal Act on the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation (No. 1807-I of 25 October 1991, as amended on 24 July 1998 and 11 December 2002) governs the system of regulations on the use of the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation in Russian territory.

The Act emphasizes the protection of the sovereign linguistic rights of the individual, irrespective of his or her origin, social or property status, race or ethnicity, sex, education, attitude to religion or place of residence. On the basis of the sovereignty of the republics of the Russian Federation, the aforementioned Act also establishes their freedom to settle issues relating to the protection, development and use of their national languages. Special attention is paid to ensuring the free development of languages in areas with high concentrations of indigenous or ethnic minorities that do not have their own administrative and territorial units set up along ethnic lines, as well as those living outside such areas.

The right to use one's native language in areas with large populations of ethnic minorities is provided for specifically in article 6, paragraph 4, of Federal Act No. 8 of 25 January 2002 on the national population census and the Federal Act on basic safeguards of Russian citizens' electoral rights and right to take part in referendums, which allows the relevant electoral commission to decide to print ballot papers in Russian, as the official language of the Russian Federation, and in the official languages of the relevant republic of the Russian Federation, and where necessary in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation in the territories where their populations are concentrated (art. 63, para. 10).

The Federal Act on the foundations of Russian Federation legislation on culture establishes the right of peoples and other ethnic communities "to preserve and develop their cultural and ethnic identity and to protect, restore and preserve their native cultural and historical habitat" (art. 20). It contains a specific provision that "policy with regard to the preservation, establishment and dissemination of the cultural values of indigenous ethnic groups, the names of which are used for the corresponding administrative units, shall not be prejudicial to the cultures of other peoples or ethnic communities living in the territories in question" (art. 20).

The Ministry of Education and Science, in conjunction with the Federal Institute of Educational Development, which deals with national education issues, monitors the situation of the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation, including the languages of indigenous and minority groups, on a yearly basis. It is carrying out a number of projects relating to the protection and expansion of the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation. The ethnic groups of the North living in the extreme conditions of the polar region constitute a special case among indigenous minorities.

The peoples of the Far North, Siberia, the Russian Far East, the Northern Caucasus and Central Russia speak 45 languages and dialects.

Abkhaz (in Kharachay-Cherkessia)	Aleut	Aleutor
Besermen (dialect)	Veps	Dolgan
Izhor	Itelmen	Kamchadal (dialect)
Kerek	Ket	Koryak
Kumanda	Mansi	Nagaibak (dialect)
Nanai	Nganasan	Negidal
Nenets	Nivkh	Orok (Ulta)
Oroch	Saami	Selkup
Soyot	Taz (dialect)	Telengit (dialect)
Teleut (dialect)	Tofalar	Tubalar (dialect)
Tuvin-Todjan (dialect)	Udege	Ulch
Khanty	Chelkan (dialect)	Chuvan (dialect)
Chukchi	Chulym	Shapsug (in Adygeya)
Shor	Evenk	Even
Ent	Eskimo	Yukagir

The group includes 34 indigenous minority languages of the Far North, Siberia and the Russian Far East: Aleut, Dolgan, Itelmen, Kamchadal (dialect), Kerek, Ket, Koryak, Kumanda, Mansi, Nanai, Nganasan, Negidal, Nenets, Nivkh, Orok (Ulta), Oroch, Saami, Selkup, Soyot, Taz (dialect), Teleut (dialect), Tofalar, Tuvin-Todjan (dialect), Udege, Ulch, Khanty, Chuvan (dialect), Chukchi, Shor, Evenk, Even, Ent, Eskimo and Yukagir.

7. The education system for indigenous minorities of the North is an integral part of the Russian education system and is governed by the overall provisions of education legislation of the Russian Federation. Significant changes have been made in the last 15 years, as part of the modernization of education in the Far North, Siberia and the Russian Far East.

In areas with high concentrations of indigenous minorities, and in areas in which such minorities migrate as nomads, new networks of educational institutions are being assembled, along with models for general education establishments determined by the lives of the peoples of the North, and more particularly by their wish to preserve the family as the fundamental way of socializing children and acquainting them with traditional ways.

Model 1: The nomadic kindergarten model (Laborovaya trading post, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area), the main purpose of which is to prepare children for primary school, using the foundation of traditional teachings (native and family children's folklore, traditional games and songs) and native languages.

The main tasks of the nomadic kindergarten are:

- to allow free interaction in the native language;
- to allow the acquisition of knowledge of the spiritual culture of one's people, of the basis of traditional livelihoods (reindeer-herding, fishing and hunting), of the environment of the area and how to protect it and of how to strengthen and harden one's constitution.

The nomadic kindergarten operates year-round and is open to children between three and six years old. Between February and April, instruction takes place in a camp located in the winter grazing area, with the holidays extending until the end of May. Between June and August, with a break in July, children between three and six years old attend a summer-autumn nomadic (seasonal) preparatory kindergarten in the indigenous camp. Teaching at the nomadic kindergarten is intended to prepare children for structured education at boarding schools and primary schools.

Work is continuing on the following issues affecting the operation of the system of nomadic kindergartens: establishment of a legal framework; training of staff to work in the nomadic environment; preparation of scientific and methodological literature, programmes, textbooks, handouts and methodological and graphic material.

Model 2: Nomadic schools (usually based around the settlements of reindeer herders, hunters and fishermen (at trading posts, native communities or transfer bases, where the school is a stationary establishment; or as a travelling school that moves with the reindeer herders).

The nomadic school is a special type of general educational institution that is adapted to suit the local conditions of the Far North. The concept became widespread in Russia in the 1920s and 1930s. The operation of such schools marks a particular stage in the development of national education. The fundamental purpose was to make schools accessible to the children of nomadic groups. One of the main distinguishing features of the nomadic school was its ability to reach the most remote and isolated locations in the tundra, the deep taiga and mountainous regions. Variations in the natural environment led to various forms of nomadic migration and various modes of operation of nomadic schools. In some cases, the movement was meridional (herds driven northwards in the summer and southwards in the winter); in other cases, it was lateral (with migration from water source to water source, or around a water source); in still other cases it was vertical (with migration from winter pastures on the plain to summer pastures in the mountains), and so on.

As part of the development of the traditional activities of the minorities of the North, nomadic schools are being revived with a new outlook. Nomadic schools are considered the most acceptable model of teaching in the environment of the North, under the influence of radical transformation in the social and economic fields and in society and politics.

The first new-generation nomadic schools were established at the beginning of the 1990s in the communities (Ayllus) of Mom, Anabar, Olenek and Aldan in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). In 1993, a plan for the instruction and education of children in the spirit of their ancestors and a standard set of regulations for nomadic schools were developed and adopted. They now serve to facilitate organized education in extreme environments.

One type of nomadic school operates at the under-subscribed school of the Laborovaya trading post in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area. Implementation of the nationality- and regionally specific component of the curriculum in a multiplicity of ways offers children the opportunity to become acquainted from the earliest age with the traditional ways of their ancestors and the indigenous material and spiritual culture of the Nenets.

Model 3: Community schools, which in structure and substance resemble under-subscribed stationary schools. The main difference is in the relationship between the members of the community, which leaves its stamp on the process of instruction and education (including the tutorial approach).

Model 4: The tutorial school. In this type of school, the teacher travels into the taiga and teaches children in that environment, in a family setting. The first Even tutor began work at the beginning of the 1990s in the Burkatymtan settlement of the Mom Ayllus in the Republic of Yakutia-Sakha, teaching in the inhabitants' hunting grounds.

Model 5: The taiga school, in which parents act as tutor-consultants, teaching their own children. Such teaching techniques are combined with support sessions at a school (for example, the Iengra taiga school in the Republic of Yakutia-Sakha).

Model 6: The permanent nomadic school, in which pupils spend part of the time with the herd, being taught about ethno-cultural issues and basic subjects with an indigenous and regional component.

Model 7: Sunday schools. These operate in towns and settlements without sufficient numbers of pupils to open another type of school. The main purpose of the schools is to provide ethno-cultural education.

Model 8: Summer school. These are intended to provide immersion in the native language and culture of the pupils for those with no knowledge of their native language (summer camps).

In this new stage in the socio-economic development of the indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, a socio-economic situation has emerged which combines the efforts of the family, the community, settlements' social institutions and society in order to help not only the children, but all inhabitants, of a settlement and to help overcome inter-agency barriers, broaden opportunities and enrich the content of education in cultural and sporting institutions, social security, employment centres and the media, and to improve their resource and teaching base.

There has been a significant increase in the use of such teaching methods as offsite learning, in-family instruction and distance learning.

In 2009, the Federal Institute of Educational Development plans to make the necessary changes to the standard provisions for general education establishments.

The decrease in the population of the Northern regions has led to a decrease in pupil numbers and to a lack of qualified instruction and education specialists and teachers.

When the new education models for the peoples of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East were being established, the need arose to train, select and provide vocational development for prospective teaching staff for pre-school and school-age

children, taking into account the children's psychological, physiological and ethnic character, the need for mastery of distance learning technology for individuals and for a variety of ages, the ability to work in a rotational system in a nomadic environment and the need to provide teaching and methodological materials.

The local authorities of regions including the Yamal-Nenets and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Areas, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Khabarovsk Territory have made a substantial effort to improve education. There and elsewhere, legislation of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation has been adopted, and regional programmes have been put in place to develop education and preserve the native languages of indigenous minorities.

Priority national projects have provided great stimulus to the development of education in the North. As part of those projects, steps are being taken in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in that region to support and develop best practice for indigenous education, to encourage better teachers, support talented youth, master the latest education technology, improve teaching efficiency and improve resources.

With the aim of strengthening support for teaching staff, a number of higher-level and middle-level specialist education institutions have been conducting training at the request of various constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The institutions include the A. I. Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University, the M. K. Amosov Yakutsk State University, the Far East State University and the Yugorsk State University.

Pursuant to Russian Federation Government Decision No. 469 of 29 July 2006 amending Russian Federation Government Decision No. 487 of 27 June 2001 adopting standard provisions for special facilities and other material support for undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students of federal State educational institutions providing higher-level and middle-level vocational education, changes were introduced to recommend that the federal executive authorities and other beneficiaries of federal funds responsible for the educational institutions of that type located in the Far North and other similar regions should seek, via the establishment of a special fund, to allocate resources to providing a level of grants commensurate with residence in the extreme natural and climatic conditions of the North.

The support described has also been sourced from the budgets of other ministries and departments and the budgets of constituent entities of the Russian Federation. In 2009, the Ministry of Education and Science plans to develop the following:

- A bill to amend article 29 of the Russian Education Act as follows: "1. The responsibilities of the authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation with regard to education shall include contributing, together with the appropriate federal State authorities, and on the basis of federal State educational standards or federal State requirements, to the establishment of indicative basic education curriculums, taking into account their level and approach (with regard to the regional, national and ethno-cultural demands of citizens and society)";
- Draft curriculums for the native languages of the main language groups (Turkic, Finno-Ugrian, Abkhaz-Adygei, Mongolian) and for Russian, and a curriculum for grades 5 to 9 of general education establishments teaching in

native (non-Russian) languages and in Russian (for non-native speakers), on the basis of federal State standards for general education;

- Methodological texts to train teachers in the native languages of the four main language groups;

- Outlines of refresher training in the groups of native languages for teachers of general education establishments teaching in native (non-Russian) languages and in Russian (for non-native speakers).

8. Russian Federal legislation contains no specific regulation of community radio broadcasting. Radio stations have equal opportunities with regard to allocation of broadcasting frequencies. The requirements for broadcasters applying to be allocated a frequency or seeking to acquire a new frequency are contained in Russian Federation Government Decision No. 1359 of 7 December 1994 on the licensing of television and radio broadcasting and communications activity in television and radio broadcasting in the Russian Federation. Broadcasting frequencies for population centres with over 200,000 inhabitants are allocated on a competitive basis. Rules for the submission of competition applications are contained in Russian Federation Government Decision No. 698 of 26 June 1999 on the conduct of competitions for the attribution of terrestrial radio and television broadcasting rights and on the establishment and acquisition of new channel frequencies for television and radio broadcasting.

The development of television and radio broadcasting is included in the work programme for 2009-2011 of the Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency. In connection with this strategic aim, there are plans to increase the quantity and quality of socially significant television and radio programmes, including those with a news and information, cultural, artistic, scientific, cognitive, sporting, children's or musical leaning. The development of community radio coincides with the overall direction of the Russian Federation's State policy for television and radio broadcasting.

In the course of the implementation of national State policy in 2008 the following allocations of resources were made from the federal budget for that year:

- A project to develop and publish dictionaries (including electronic dictionaries) in the languages of the indigenous minorities of the North (Nenets-Russian, Russian-Nenets, Selkup-Russian, Russian-Selkup);

- A project to develop and broadcast on federal television stations a series of 20 programmes on the peoples of the Russian Federation;

- A project to organize and hold a national competition among the media for the best coverage of the subject of inter-ethnic relations of the peoples of the Russian Federation and their ethno-cultural development (there will be a separate nomination for media in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation);

- A project to support the holding of an international seminar entitled "International norms and the legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of preserving the languages and cultures, traditional lifestyles and natural resources management of indigenous peoples: Norms, Theory, Practice".

– Every year, the Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency provides, on a competitive basis, State support in the form of subsidies from the federal budget for the implementation of socially significant projects in the field of electronic and print media. The topic of shaping, preserving and developing the spiritual culture of the peoples of the Russian Federation is one of the priorities for the provision of financial support. During the period 2004-2008, more than 153 million roubles were allocated to the electronic mass media for these purposes.

Among the projects that receive State subsidies, mention can be made of the information and educational programme Narody Rossii (Peoples of Russia), which has been broadcast by Radio Russia since 2001. The programme is devoted to the Russian Federation's ethnic diversity and promotes inter-ethnic cooperation. Ethnic issues are covered from the point of view of representatives of ethno-cultural autonomies, ethnographers, historians, specialists in ethnic conflicts, sociologists, culturologists and art critics.

The Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency provides financial support for the films "Provincial Museums of Russia" (broadcast on the Kultura television station), which devote particular attention to museums that promote ethnic culture. Series of television documentaries are being prepared: "Geographic video encyclopaedia" — this series reveals the multidimensional aspects of the cultures of the peoples of the Russian Federation; "The humanity of others ..." consists of films about the Russian Federation's indigenous minorities, their return to their roots and so forth.

The Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency allocates funds for the production of animated information and educational video clips about the regions and peoples of the Russian Federation: "We live in Russia".

Projects supported by the Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency include programmes in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation. In 2004-2007, some 4.4 million roubles were allocated for the production of such programmes.

The Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency has supported the creation and operation of Internet resources (sites and portals): Narody Rossii: edinstvo i mnogoobrazie (Peoples of Russia: unity and diversity), which provides historical and ethnographic information on all the peoples and ethnic groups of the Russian Federation, as well as information on State policy in the area of inter-ethnic and interfaith relations. Etno-zhurnal aims to strengthen inter-ethnic relations, promote tolerance and popularize the cultural diversity of the Russian Federation and the world.

Point 5 of the questionnaire

A system of specialized laws and regulations has been established in the Russian Federation to protect the rights of the indigenous population. Since the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation in 1993, these vulnerable ethnic groups have been officially designated as "ethnic minorities" (art. 71 (c) and art. 72, para. 1 (b), of the Constitution), "minority ethnic communities" (art. 72, para. 1 (l)) and "indigenous minorities" (art. 69).

Specifically, the Constitution links the regulation and protection of the rights of "indigenous minorities" and "minority ethnic communities" with rights to land

and other natural resources regarded as "the basis of the life and activity of the peoples inhabiting the territory in question" (art. 9, para. 1) and with the right to protection of their native habitat and traditional ways of life.

In accordance with Federal Act No. 82 of 30 April 1999 on guarantees of the rights of the indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation, indigenous minorities are defined as peoples living on their ancestors' traditional territories, preserving a traditional lifestyle and livelihood, who number fewer than 50,000 in the Russian Federation and who consider themselves autonomous ethnic communities.

Federal Act No. 104 of 20 July 2000 on general principles for the organization of communities of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East introduced the new designation "indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East".

Government Decision No. 255 of 24 March 2000 on the unified list of indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation and Government Order No. 536 of 17 April 2006 approving the list of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East specify the composition of the indigenous minority population of the Russian Federation.

Pursuant to Government Order No. 185 of 21 February 2005, the Ministry of Regional Development is preparing regulatory documentation on the establishment of territories of traditional natural resource use for indigenous minorities of the North. In accordance with Federal Act No. 49 of 7 May 2001 on the territories of traditional natural resource use for indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, such territories are one type of specially protected natural territory.

Russian Federation legislation on the rights of indigenous peoples has continued to improve, including as a result of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

The Russian Federation was the first State to announce officially its participation in the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Government Order No. 758 of 27 May 2006 on the preparation and observance in the Russian Federation of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was a key instrument in this respect.

The Ministry of Regional Development, working with relevant federal executive authorities and executive agencies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, has developed a package of priority measures for the preparation and observance in the Russian Federation of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (hereafter "the package"), which has been under way since 2008.

A number of relevant projects were implemented in 2008 as part of the implementation of State national policy on indigenous minorities of the North in order to improve federal legislation and to develop and adopt the latest conceptual approaches. Financial support was also given to community organizations providing these peoples with significant cultural and educational activities.

1. A framework policy for the sustainable development of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East was prepared by relevant federal executive authorities in conjunction with the Russian Association of

Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East. This framework policy was approved by Government Order No. 132 of 4 February 2009.

The significance of the framework policy approved by the Government lies in the fact that a standard has been clearly established in the Russian Federation for the implementation of State policy to protect the rights of indigenous minorities of the North. This standard was developed by reviewing the current status of traditional natural resource use, education, health and ethnocultural and socio-demographic development. Furthermore, for the first time, the framework policy includes not only direct State support to indigenous minorities but also assistance with the mobilization of their internal resources.

The framework policy is based on a set of principles which governs approaches to the sustainable development of indigenous minorities, including guarantees of rights and freedoms in accordance with the Constitution and international law; the prohibition of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, language or social origin; recognition of the right to use one's mother tongue; cooperation between the Russian Federation and its constituent entities to preserve the indigenous habitat and traditional way of life of indigenous minorities of the North; and recognition of their right to receive priority access to historical natural resources.

The main purpose of the framework policy is to create the necessary conditions and incentives in the Russian Federation for internal factors to be established for the sustainable development of indigenous minorities of the North by strengthening their socio-economic capabilities and preserving their indigenous habitat, traditional way of life and traditional economic activities.

The main objectives of the framework policy are as follows: to preserve cultural heritage; to develop and modernize traditional occupations; to promote self-organization; to expand the level of access to education; and, above all, to reduce child mortality and significantly improve quality of life as a whole.

The framework policy will be implemented in three stages from 2009 to 2025. Each stage will correspond to a set of specific Government-approved measures. The list of such measures for the first stage (from 2009-2011) will be approved in the next three months. In addition to federal agencies, participants in this work will include the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and community organizations representing the interests of indigenous minorities.

The achievement of the purposes and objectives of the framework policy will substantially help to improve the socio-economic and ethnocultural development of indigenous minorities in the North, Siberia and the Far East.

2. The Government has prepared a draft regulation approving the list of places of traditional residence and economic activity for indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East.

To that end, executive bodies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation whose territories have concentrations of indigenous minorities with traditional lifestyles and livelihoods (crafts) have made proposals to include relevant areas in the list. These proposals have been collected and compiled. Following an inter-agency review, the draft will be submitted to the Government in accordance with the established procedure.

3. Proposals to introduce a number of amendments to federal legislation have been developed in order to simplify the application of laws and regulations for the protection of the rights of indigenous minorities. Conceptual approaches have been developed to improve Federal Act No. 49 of 7 May 2001 on the Territories of Traditional Natural Resource Use by Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Regional Development, with the participation of relevant federal executive authorities, has developed a draft Government decision approving the list of types of traditional economic activity of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East. Following a review, this draft Government decision will be submitted to the Government in accordance with the established procedure.

4. Work is now under way to develop Government legislation approving the method and procedure for determining losses, including loss of profit, to users of plots of land and other natural resources, and the procedure for compensating indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation for the losses incurred by them as a result of damage to their habitats.

5. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the package regarding the conduct of research to develop a set of indicators on the quality of life and social status of indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation and the well-being of their communities, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Russian Federation Ministry of Regional Development and the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on cooperation for the development of indigenous peoples and northern territories.

Under the memorandum, activities are under way to study international experience in the development of a set of indicators on the quality of life and social status of indigenous minorities.

A system of indicators on the quality of life and social status of indigenous minorities is scheduled to be developed in 2009 in the light of international experience.

6. The Ministry of Regional Development supported the holding of the third international exhibition-fair, entitled "Northern Civilization 2008" (hereafter "exhibition-fair"), which took place from 15 to 19 April 2008 in Moscow.

The objectives of the exhibition-fair were as follows: to provide communities of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East with practical opportunities to demonstrate what they have achieved from the use of traditional production methods; to offer a broad overview of their products on the market; to search for business project partners and investors; to give constituent entities of the Russian Federation a demonstration of what has been achieved in the socio-economic and cultural development of territories; to draw the attention of the international community and federal State authorities to experience learned from the development of small business involving traditional activities of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East; and to promote a broad awareness of the distinct culture of indigenous minorities among citizens of the Russian Federation and the international community.

The exhibition-fair was attended by representatives of organizations and communities of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, representatives of the European Commission in the Russian Federation and representatives of federal and regional State authorities.

As part of the exhibition-fair, a round-table meeting entitled "Ecotourism in indigenous territories in the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East" was held on 17 April 2008. Within that round-table framework, discussions were held on Russian and international experience in the development of indigenous ecotourism, on existing problems in this area and also on achievements and future prospects; representatives of organizations, tourist firms and communities delivered presentations on the tours and routes that they had devised; and the development of information and partnership networks among indigenous minority organizations and communities was discussed with the participants concerned.

7. The fifth World Congress of Finno-Ugrian Peoples (hereafter "Congress") was held by the Ministry of Regional Development, in conjunction with relevant federal executive authorities and the Administration of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area — Ugra, from 28 June to 1 July 2008 in Khanty-Mansiisk. The Congress was funded using funds from the federal budget.

The Congress brought together some 600 people, including 276 delegates and 285 observers from 24 Finno-Ugrian and Samoyed peoples (from 27 constituent entities of the Russian Federation and 7 foreign countries): Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Ukraine, Finland, Sweden and Estonia. It was also attended by representatives of a number of international organizations; members of the European Parliament; representatives of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; representatives of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly; representatives of federal executive authorities; representatives of State authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation; and prominent Russian activists and academics.

8. As part of the implementation of State national policy, indigenous minority experts and representatives of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East have participated in international activities to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and also in the work of the Arctic Council.

9. Pursuant to the paragraph of the package on the annual celebrations held to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People and as part of the implementation of State national policy, a festival of arts of the peoples of the Russian Federation, entitled "Enticing worlds: Ethnic Russia 2008", was held with the participation of the Ministry of Regional Development from February until November 2008 in Moscow and the Moscow, Bryansk, Kaluga, Belgorod, Voronezh and Ryazan regions. The festival included a programme entitled "Family and ancestral traditions from antiquity to the present day" (Moscow, 16-18 May 2008); a programme entitled "Russia day" (Bryansk, 18 June; Belgorod, 22 June and Voronezh, 4, 5 and 6-12 June); a programme entitled "Ethnic images of Russia" (Moscow, 9 August 2008); Moscow day (6-7 September 2008); and the final programme of the festival (Moscow, 28 October-4 November 2008).

Folklore groups from more than 20 indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East performed at the festival.

10. Pursuant to the package and in line with the information provided by the Ministry of Culture (in its letter No. 1859-02-1/01 of 13 November 2008), the All-Russia festival of artistic work of the indigenous minority populations of the North took place in two stages during 2007 and 2008: the festival was held in regions of the Russian Federation in 2007 and the final event in Moscow from 5 to 8 September 2008.

The aim of the festival was to contribute to the preservation, continuity and development of the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous minorities of the North; to publicize the best achievements and the full range of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts; to promote better standards of artistry and the establishment of new creative teams; and to help identify genuine craftsmen and provide encouragement for their work.

Up to and including 2008, financial support for the socio-economic development of indigenous minorities of the North was provided by State bodies under the special federal programme "Economic and Social Development of Indigenous Minorities of the North up to the year 2008": in the period 2007-2008, approximately 207.4 million roubles were allocated each year to 29 constituent entities of the Russian Federation; since 2008, 80 million roubles has been allocated under the special federal budget item "Activities for the implementation of State national policy".

At the same time, following an alteration to the arrangements for the implementation of the special federal programme in question — whereby the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation receive federal budget subsidies for any of their needs — the Ministry of Regional Development has drawn up a draft Government decision approving rules for the distribution and allocation of federal budget subsidies to the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in support of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East.

Pursuant to Federal Act No. 204 of 24 November 2008 on the federal budget for 2009 and the 2010-2011 planning period, a separate entry provides support for the economic and social development of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Russian Far East in the amount of 600 million roubles in 2009, 636 million roubles in 2010 and 646.46 million roubles in 2011.

Comparable amounts of funds are to be raised from regional budgets. The aforementioned rules for the distribution and allocation of federal budget subsidies to the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation include a mechanism to ensure that expenditure commitments of constituent entities of the Russian Federation to support the economic and social development of indigenous minorities of the North range from 40 to 90 per cent of federal budget subsidies.

Point 6 of the questionnaire

In order to ensure the meaningful ethnocultural development of the peoples of the Russian Federation and resolve issues relating to inter-ethnic cooperation and partnership with religious organizations, the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation was established in September 2004 and given responsibility for policy on ethnic issues.

The Ministry is empowered to devise national policy and to draft laws and regulations relating to the socio-economic development of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, federal-ethnic relations and protection of the rights of ethnic minorities and the native habitats and traditional lifestyles of indigenous minorities and ethnic communities.

The Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations is the lead department of the Ministry of Regional Development responsible for policy on ethnic issues. The Director of the Department is Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zhuravsky (tel. + 7 (495) 980-25-47, ext. 24000).

Point 7 of the questionnaire

Specialized advanced training programmes on the rights of indigenous peoples are being developed for civil service staff. Administrative staff are currently improving their knowledge of issues relating to indigenous peoples while carrying out practical work to implement federal and regional programmes on safeguarding the rights and legitimate interests of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation.

Point 8 of the questionnaire

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has become a new milestone in the history of protecting the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. It solidifies and advances the collective and individual human rights and fundamental freedoms already laid down in international agreements, focusing them on indigenous peoples. It is particularly important that the Declaration calls for cooperation between indigenous peoples and States as an essential condition for resolving problems.

For many years now, the Russian Federation has had a sound legal framework which meets international standards concerning protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The principles enshrined in the Declaration were reflected in Russian legislation long before the adoption of the Declaration. Most of its provisions have provided the basis for the recently adopted framework policy for the sustainable development of indigenous minorities of the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East, a unique document established to give practical effect to the standards for the enjoyment of indigenous rights set out in the Declaration.

Some of the provisions of the Declaration, as in the case of any international instrument, could be interpreted in different ways. In this connection, the bodies of the United Nations system — above all, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues — need to fully explain the status and provisions of the Declaration in the context of ensuring the integrity of the system of international law and strict compliance with its principles and norms. This challenge is inextricably linked to the need for widespread education of both States and indigenous peoples about the rights enshrined in the Declaration. The main aim of this process should be to iron out the differences between them and to build trust and cooperation. Indeed, for all the importance of international cooperation, it is the good will and sufficient and effective efforts of States themselves that provide the framework for dealing with indigenous issues.

This is the main objective of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the United Nations system, according to article 42 of the Declaration. As the main platform for the discussion of indigenous issues, only the Permanent Forum can implement this process.

For its part, the Russian Federation reiterates its willingness to strengthen relevant international cooperation in this area. In this regard, the Russian Federation is ready to cooperate closely and constructively with organizations of indigenous minorities in the Russian Federation and views this as a guarantee of the effectiveness of the relevant measures being taken at the international level.